

Filed for intro on 02/20/97  
SENATE BILL 1605 By  
Gilbert

HOUSE BILL 1356  
By Ritchie

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 2  
and Title 16, Chapter 3, Part 1, relative to election of  
judges of the supreme court.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-3-101, is amended by deleting  
subsection (a) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a) The supreme court shall consist of five (5) judges, one (1) from each judicial  
district created by Section 3 of this act. One (1) of the judges shall reside in each grand  
division of the state, and not more than two (2) in the same grand division.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-3-101, is further amended by  
deleting subsection (b) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(b) Judges of the supreme court shall be elected as follows: one (1) judge shall  
be elected from each of the judicial districts created pursuant to Section 3 of this act.  
Each candidate shall reside in the judicial district of the state for which such judge is  
elected.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-3-101, is further amended by  
adding a new subsection thereto, as follows:

( ) For the purpose of electing judges of the supreme court the state shall be  
apportioned into five (5) judicial districts as provided in Section 4, three (3) of which

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districts will be wholly contained in the grand divisions of the state, one (1) in each grand division.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new part thereto:

(a)

(1) All census descriptions, counties, voting districts (VTDs), tracts, blocks, census delineations, census district lines and other census designations are those established for or by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, for taking the 1990 federal decennial census in Tennessee as contained in the automated geographic data base, known as the TIGER (Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing) System.

(2) All subdivisions listed under a county are voting districts (VTDs) unless labeled as tracts and blocks.

(b) The state of Tennessee is divided into the following five (5) supreme court districts composed as follows:

**DISTRICT 1:** All of Carter, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, Union, and Washington counties.

In Claiborne County:

**VTDs:** Bacchus, Big Spring Union, Clouds, Cumberland Gap, Gibson Hall, Goin, Harrogate, Howard's Quarter, Liberty, Lone Mountain, New Tazewell, Sandlick, Shawanee, Springdale, Tazewell, and Vanbebber Springs.

**DISTRICT 2:** All of Anderson, Bledsoe, Blount, Bradley, Campbell, Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Hamilton, Jackson, Loudon, McMinn, Marion, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Polk, Putnam, Rhea, Roane, Scott, and White counties.

In Claiborne County:

**VTDS:** Arthur, Clairfield, and Roger Mill

In Smith County:

**VTDS:** Difficult, Defeated, Elmwood, Chestnut Mound, Lancaster, and Carthage.

**DISTRICT 3:** All of Cannon, Cheatham, Coffee, Davidson, Franklin, Grundy, Macon, Moore, Overton, Pickett, Robertson, Sequatchie, Sumner, Trousdale, Van Buren, Warren, and Wilson counties.

In Rutherford County:

**VTDS:** John Coleman, Laverne City Hall, Smyrna Fire Hall at Nissan, and Walter Hill.

In Smith County:

**VTDS:** Dixon Spring, Rome-Rock City, N. Middleton, Carthage, South Carthage, Gordonsville, Brush Creek, Pleasant Shade, Monoville, Tanglewood, Carthage, and Hickman.

**DISTRICT 4:** All of Bedford, Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Dickson, Dyer, Gibson, Giles, Hardin, Henderson, Henry, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lake, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, McNairy, Madison, Marshall, Maury, Montgomery, Obion, Perry, Stewart, Wayne, Weakley and Williamson.

In Chester County:

**VTDS:** 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, and 5th.

In Rutherford County:

**VTDS:** Almaville, Bellwood, Blackmon, Buchanan, Christiana, CMS, Courthouse, Double Springs, Eagleville, Jones B. Fire Hall, Kittrell, Kittrell 2, Lascassas, LCA, Leana, Midland, Milton, Mitchell Nelson, MTE, Oakland, Oakland 2, Reeves Rogers, Riverdale, Rockvale, Salem, Smyrna A.H., F and H Salvage, Sportsman Club, VFW, and Vine St. Fire Hall.

**DISTRICT 5:** All of Crockett, Fayette, Hardeman, Haywood, Lauderdale, Shelby, and Tipton counties.

In Chester County:

**VTDs:** 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 4th and 6th.

SECTION 5. If three (3) candidates in the same grand division from three (3) different judicial districts receive the greatest number of votes in their respective districts, then the candidate from a district not wholly contained within such grand division with the fewer number of votes shall be disqualified. The candidate with the greatest number of votes from such district who does not reside in the grand division shall be selected.

SECTION 6. The provisions of this act shall not be construed as having the effect of removing an incumbent from office or abridging the term of any official prior to the term for which an incumbent was elected or appointed.

SECTION 7. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.